SHRP2 SOLUTIONS
TOOLS FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

# Identifying and Managing Utility Conflicts (R15B)

***Improving cooperation among highway agencies and utilities for faster project delivery***

## Challenge

When it comes to designing and implementing transportation projects, utility conflicts identified at the end of the design period or during construction can extend construction time, pose safety concerns, and increase costs. Locating, protecting, and relocating underground utilities creates significant delays to construction and utility services. Minimizing utility relocation during the design and development of transportation projects can lead to faster project delivery and lower costs.

## Solution

The Utility Conflict Matrix (UCM) and its companion report, **Identification of Utility Conflicts and Solutions**, provide concepts and procedures to identify and resolve utility conflicts that public agencies and utilities can use to help improve the highway project development process.

Additionally, a one-day training course has been developed to help agencies incorporate the UCM in existing business practices so that utility conflicts are identified throughout the design process.

UCMs are designed to help agencies and utility companies identify the best and most cost-effective solutions. The SHRP2 UCM is also scalable to support a range of project sizes and conditions, in varying levels of project design. The standalone UCM, data model, and database are available on the **TRB website** along with a companion **research report** featuring best practices from State departments of transportation, as well as case studies that identify prevailing issues and proven solutions.

## Benefits

The immediate benefits of the UCM process include proactive identification of both utility conflicts and alternative design solutions to minimize costs and foster greater communication among affected parties. Together, these improvements lead to more cost-effective processes with reduced risks. Ultimately the benefits of using a UCM on roadway and bridge construction projects include:

- Fewer contractor change orders and delay claims
- Reduced costs from construction delays
- Improved project development procedures based on anticipating and resolving utility conflicts early in the process
- Better communication among transportation agencies and utilities
- Reduced impacts on the public from construction-related delays
- Reduced impacts on the public from utility disruptions
- Improved worker and public safety from construction-related hazards

### *Save Lives*

***Timely location of underground lines minimizes potential safety issues to the public and construction workers.***

### *Save Money*

***Earlier and more effective coordination reduces costs from construction delays and utility damage and relocation.***

### *Save Time*

***Standard procedures and easy-to-use tools save time in identifying and solving utility conflicts early and throughout the entire design process.***

RENEWAL

**One of four SHRP2 focus areas, Renewal products help transportation organizations rapidly build and restore highway infrastructure that lasts longer while minimizing user disruption and delay.**

*Continued on next page.*

**Visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2**
**Learn more about products, case studies, and implementation assistance.**

## The Implementation Assistance Program

Implementation assistance is available to help State departments of transportation (DOTs), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other interested organizations deploy SHRP2 Solutions. A range of opportunities is available to raise awareness of SHRP2 Solutions and to encourage early adoption of these products. Application periods are offered approximately twice per year. Each product selected for implementation assistance has the potential to deliver more efficient, cost-effective programs to meet the complex challenges facing transportation today.

## How can you learn more?

Visit: www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2

- Additional product information
- Information about how this product is being used in the field
- Contact information for peers who are familiar with this product
- Links to research reports

## Contacts


**Matt DeMarco (FHWA)**
matthew.demarco@dot.gov

**Keith Platte (AASHTO)**
kplatte@aashto.org


### About SHRP2 Implementation

The second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) is a partnership of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). TRB completed the research, and now FHWA and AASHTO are jointly implementing the resulting SHRP2 Solutions that will help the transportation community enhance productivity, boost efficiency, increase safety, and improve the reliability of the Nation's highway system.